

## U.S. Department of Justice

## Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530 October 23, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM:

Robert Raben

Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT:

Weekly Report for October 23, 2000 - October 27, 2000

## THE WEEK AHEAD

CJS Immigration Provisions: OLA, INS and ODAG continue to work with the White House and Democratic Members of Congress to push for the inclusion of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) in the CJS appropriations bill. LIFA does three things: 1) grants the ability to apply for permanent residence to those Central Americans, Haitians and Liberians left out of NACARA; 2) changes the "registry date" to 1986, thereby allowing anyone in the U.S. by 1986 to apply for permanent residence; and 3) restores 245(i) relief. (First)

Telecom: The Department continues to monitor the status of pending telecom merger legislation (S. 467 [DeWine/Kohl] and S.2793 [Hollings]. The Department is also monitoring the status of a provision in Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations that would establish a one year moratorium on FCC licensing of mergers involving foreign government ownership interests greater than 25 percent. (Walter)

Bankruptcy: Senator Lott is expected to file cloture this evening on the bankruptcy bill. The cloture motion is expected to pass later this week. Time will probably run out before the Senate could pass the bill and then overturn an expected veto. (Wilson)

Prince George's County: On October 24, representatives of the Civil Rights Division and OLA will meet with Congressman Wynn to hear his concerns about police issues in Prince George's County. (Scott-Finan)

Voter Intimidation: On October 25, staff from OLA and the Civil Rights Division will meet with Congressman Dale Kildee to hear concerns about voter intimidation in Flint, Michigan. The City Clerk has requested election monitors. (Scott-Finan)

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Indian Claims: On October 17, the House passed S. 2917, the Santo Domingo Pueblo Claims Settlement Act. This bill is supported by the Administration and passed the Senate on October 11. (Pearlman)

Education: On October 17, staff from OLA and the Civil Rights Division met with Senator Jeff Sessions and Congressman Bob Riley about compliance with the consent decree in Coosa, Alabama. (Scott-Finan)

Internet False Identification Act: Representatives of CRM and OLA met with staff of Senators Collins and Feinstein on October 18 to discuss concerns about S. 2924, the Internet False Identification Prevention Act of 2000. (Graupensperger)

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: On October 19, David Cohen, Section Chief in the Civil Division's Commercial Litigation Branch, accompanied officials from the U.S. Forest Service who testified before the Committee about potential timber sale contract liability relating to contract cancellations. The hearing began with testimony from Mr. Duane Gibson, a staffer from the House Resources Committee, about pending civil litigation involving the Alaska Pulp Corporation (APC), but Chairman Murkowski did not question the Forest Service witnesses about non-public matters relating to the litigation and, hence, Mr. Cohen was not obliged to participate in the hearing. We appreciated the Chairman's deference to our sensitivities about the litigation and do not anticipate further questions resulting from the hearing.

(Burton)

FOIA EXEMPTION

Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act: On October 19, H.R. 2442, the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act, was passed by the Senate. The measure had been amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee to address our constitutional concerns; however, it still leaves the review with the Department and not an independent commission. (Scott-Finan)